

ROTOVUE

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**'Ironhorses' ship out
for Djibouti.....Pg. 3**



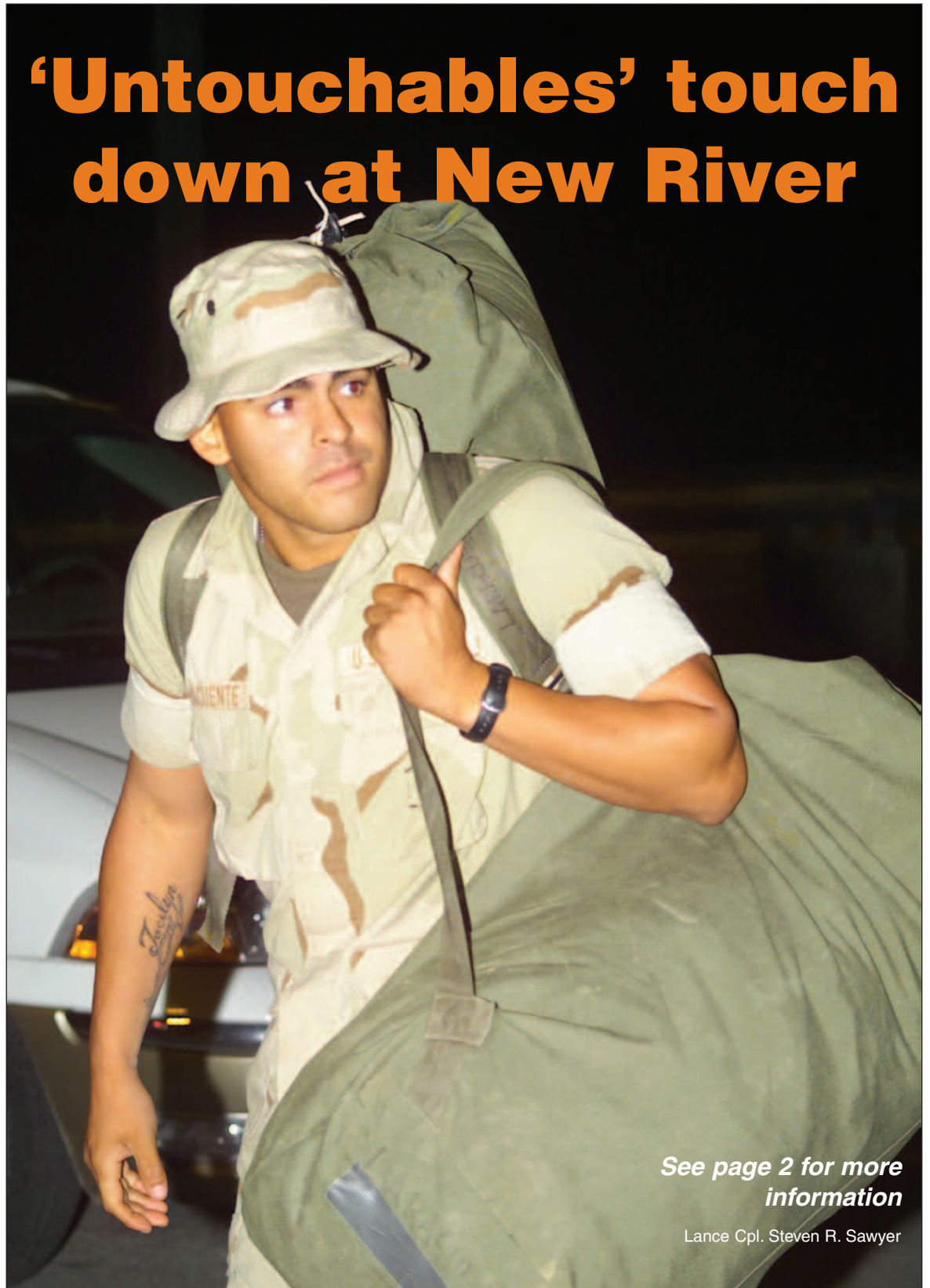
**Aviation memorial in
works.....Pg. 5**



**H&HS takes flight
for education.....Pg. 6**



'Untouchables' touch down at New River



*See page 2 for more
information*

Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer

FLIGHTLINES

Power Outage

According to Station Facilities, a power outage affecting New River and Camp Geiger is scheduled to take place May 2 from 4 - 8 a.m.

For more information, contact Randy Scott, Station facilities manager, at 449-5402.

Clinics Receive Award

Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Family Practice Clinic and Marine Corps Air Station Family Practice Clinic have been awarded an accreditation by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists, based on the results of a recent on-site inspection.

The two clinics are among more than 6,000 CAP-accredited laboratories nationwide.

The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s, is recognized by the federal government as being equal to or more stringent than the government's own inspection program.

This inspection program is designed to specifically ensure the highest standard of care for the laboratory's patients.

The CAP is a medical society serving nearly 16,000 physician members and the laboratory community throughout the world.

CAP is the world's largest association composed exclusively of pathologists and is widely considered the leader in laboratory quality assurance.

The CAP is an advocate for high-quality and cost effective medical care.

Marksman Championship

The Marine Corps Marksmanship Division championship matches begin April 27 at the Weapons Training Battalion, Stone Bay. The matches are to determine the finest Marine Corps marksmen with the rifle and pistol.

For more information, contact Capt. Eric Gibbs at 449-2705.

Free Preschool

All Camp Lejeune Dependents Schools' elementary schools, except Tarawa Terrace II, will have a preschool program for children who will be four years old by October 16, and who live in base housing or whose sponsor holds a 90 day housing letter. All preschool children who live in Tarawa Terrace will attend preschool at Tarawa Terrace I Elementary School.

Preschool is a half-day program, Tuesdays through Fridays. There is a morning and afternoon session each of these days. Mondays are set aside for parent workshops, home visits, parent-teacher conferences, team planning and for staff development activities. There is no fee for attending this program.

Transportation is provided for children who live 1.5 or more miles from the school, who attend a base Child Development Center.

If your child meets the housing and age requirements for the preschool program and you would like to enroll him/her, registration is now taking place at all of the elementary schools.

If your child is three or four years old and you have concerns about any area of his/her development and

would like a free screening, you may contact Student Services at the Superintendent's Office at 449-2461, ext. 241 to schedule an appointment.

Capitol Uniform

According to MARADMIN 169/04 the working uniform for all Marines conducting official business or social calls in the National Capitol Region from April 5 to November 1 will be in the service "C" uniform.

For parades, ceremonies, social functions, and formal and semi-formal occasions, Marines will wear the service uniform during normal working hours or the appropriate dress uniform.

Officers and staff non-commissioned officers will wear the blue-white dress variation of the dress uniform. SNCOs who do not possess the blue-white dress uniform will wear the service uniform. The blue dress uniform is not authorized for SNCOs in lieu of the blue-white dress uniform.

Sergeants and below do not wear the blue-white dress uniform except for ceremonial purposes as directed by the command. Sergeants and below will wear the service uniform if they do not possess the blue dress uniform. The blue-white dress 'A' and blue dress 'A' uniforms are not authorized for leave or liberty.

Marines attending the evening or sunset parades will wear either coat and tie (female equivalent) or the appropriate military dress uniform with barracks cover.

Change of Command

While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi

Freedom II, two New River squadrons will conduct a change of command April 30.

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron-167 commanding officer, Lt. Col. James D. Grace, will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Christopher M. Clayton.

At the same time, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261 CO, Lt. Col. Michael H. Belding, will be replaced by Lt. Col. John R. Parker.

The two squadrons are currently supporting combat operations throughout the I Marine Expeditionary Force area of operations, including Fallujah.

Aviation Training

The Fleet Aviation Specialized Operational Training Group at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., is offering over 20 courses on aviation maintenance administration management, with the most up-to-date information in accordance with Naval Aviation Maintenance Program.

The Naval Aviation Logistics Command Management Information System class begins April 26.

For more information, call (252) 466-2709 or visit <http://www.fasolant.navy.mil/amamt.htm>.

On the cover

Lance Cpl. Gabriel A. Laracuate, a motor transportation operator for Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 and a native of Ponce, Puerto Rico, grabs his gear and searches for his family, after returning home from a four-month deployment as part of the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa in Djibouti, Friday.



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If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.

'Ironhorses' hot-to-trot for Djibouti

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

Big things happend once again for the "Ironhorses" of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 as they departed New River on April 14 to link up with the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The squadron returned from a seven-month deployment in Djibouti last November and had less than six months to prepare prior to this departure.

This follow-up deployment had been on the squadron's schedule since their return, and they plan to continue the same high-paced routine in support of CJTF - HOA, added Lt. Col. Lawrence E. Miccolis, HMH-461 commanding officer.

"Our team is absolutely prepared to get the job done and do our part," said the Waldwick, N.J., native, who had the utmost confidence in his warfighters and peacekeepers.

According to the CO, a large portion of the squadron left, and an undisclosed amount of CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters, equipment and supplies were taken on deployment.

"Primarily, the squadron will be doing long-range, heavy-lift capabilities," said 1st Lt. Thomas N. Trimble, HMH-461's adjutant and unit information officer, "and this is the first deployment we will

be implementing the [Ramp Mounted Weapons System].

Like many of the "Ironhorses," this will be Trimble's first deployment. However, the Baltimorean looks forward to utilizing his training as a Super Stallion pilot in a non-garrison environment.

For deployment veteran Staff Sgt. Carlos R. Castillo, T-64 engine mechanic with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 attached to HMH-461, going to Djibouti with a detachment of the most feared fighting machines in the world makes him proud to represent the squadron and the Marine Corps.

Coincidentally, former "Ironhorse" CO Maj. Gen. (select) Samuel T. Helland, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation, is already in Djibouti representing the squadron, added Miccolis, who has also organized a program through the Key Volunteer Network for the wives of Marines deployed as a way to keep them better informed about their spouses.

Attitudes are positive, spirits are high and the "Ironhorses" are ready.

"I'm expecting a lot of hard work, but I'm also expecting good things as a result of that hard work," said Castillo, a Stockton, Calif., resident. "Whatever mission you can think of, we're going to plan for and accomplish it."



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 load equipment and supplies they will be taking to Djibouti onto a 7 ton truck April 14.

'War Eagles' receive new top enlisted

Cpl. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

Sergeant Major William H. Bly Jr. relieved Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Tucker in a post and relief ceremony held on the flightline outside the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 hangar April 16.

Bly, a native of Norfolk, Va., replaced Tucker from Tustin, Calif., as the senior enlisted Marine of Marine Aircraft Group-29.

Tucker joined MAG-29 as sergeant major August 2002. The following year, he deployed with the Group in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, bringing home all of their personnel as well as aircraft.

"The role of seargeant major is a daunting task," said Col. Mark D. Mahaffey, MAG-29 commanding officer. "You mill be missed greatly, and we wish you the best."

"We've got a special group of peo-

ple here in the MAG," said Tucker. "The squadron commanding officers are top-notch, and the sergeants major are the same."

Bly comes to MAG-29 after serving as the sergeant major for II Marine Expeditionary Force, 2nd Force Reconnaissance.

"This should just about conclude my trip around the various working parts of the Marine Corps," said Bly, who previously never served with an air wing.

Tucker is assuming his position as base sergeant major at Camp Lejeune.

"To Sergeant Major Bly, I wish you the very best," said Tucker. "I just want you to know you are coming to a tremendous organization."

Bly in return added his wishes to pick up where Tucker left off.

"I'm looking forward to this," said Bly. "We are going to make an awesome team."

HMM-266 deploys in support of 22d MEU

Capt. Eric Dent
22d MEU public affairs

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan -- An entire reinforced helicopter squadron self-deployed from amphibious ships in the Arabian Sea approximately 450 miles inland April 11 - 14, to support operations in southern Afghanistan.

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 (Reinforced), the Aviation Combat Element of the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), spent weeks planning their movement from the USS Wasp to an airfield, formerly known as Kandahar International Airport.

"The arrival of the ACE now makes the MAGTF [Marine Air Ground Task Force] complete and ready for combat operations," explained Col. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., the MEU's commanding officer.

He described the feat as a tremen-

dous piece of airmanship and praised the "Fighting Griffins" leadership in completing the transition from ship-board to combat ashore. The squadron spent considerable time planning the details of the movement.

"Once we knew where we were going, we started planning for each contingency," said Capt. Lou Simon, a CH-46E Sea Knight pilot and the squadron's weapons and tactics instructor. "We had to consider everything from tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel to rapid ground refueling."

Simon, from Branchburg, N.J., was responsible for developing the routes for each of the waves of aircraft flying from the USS Wasp to Kandahar. Simon had an interest in ensuring the routes were sound, as he flew one of the helicopters in the first wave.

The 22d MEU is in Afghanistan to conduct combat and civil-military operations in coordination with coalition efforts to provide security and stability to the country.

Once a Marine, always a Marine

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

Three months after he returned to Iraq as a civilian, former New River Marine Lt. Col. Robert Zangas was killed March 9.



www.FreeRepublic.com

Robert Zangas, former Marine Reserve officer, poses for a photograph while on deployment with the Coalition Provisional Authority.

According to the CNN.com Web site, Zangas, 44, had just completed a nine-month stint in Iraq with the Marine Corps Reserve as a civil affairs officer in the 4th Civil Affairs Group.

Soon after his return, he decided to go back to Iraq as a civilian volunteer with the Coalition Provisional Authority working in the Public Affairs Department.

Zangas' wife, Brenda, said much of the work her husband did for the CPA mirrored what he did with the Marines, according to the Web site.

"I was going through the news one day [internet sites] and immediately recognized the name and face [Zangas]," said Lt. Col. Karl S. Elebash, Station executive officer. "It surprised me to see him back over there [Iraq] and working with a non-government organization."

In their early Marine Corps careers, Elebash and Zangas were CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter pilots with the "Fighting Griffins" of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 here.

Elebash remembers the Trafford, Penn., native as being a very eager Marine when it came to flying and making aircraft commander.

Zangas also showed that similar eagerness toward helping the Iraqi people rebuild their communities. He believed what he was doing over there was the right thing to do, added



Tony Tye

LEVEL GREEN, Penn. -- U.S. Marines from the 4th Civil Affairs Group in Washington, D.C., carry the casket of Lt. Col. Robert Zangas, 44, after a funeral service at Level Green Presbyterian Church. Zangas, a native of Trafford, was killed March 9 in Iraq while working as a civilian. He was given full military honors.

Brenda.

According to the Web site, the details of his death indicated that several gunmen posing as Iraqi officers stopped his vehicle at a makeshift checkpoint near the town of Hillah, approximately 35 miles south of Baghdad.

He was traveling with another civilian working for the United States

occupation authority and a translator, who were also killed.

Zangas is survived by his wife, Brenda, and their children, Shannon, 10; Scott, 5; and Jacob, 3.

His funeral service was held at Level Green Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania.

Zangas was given full military honors.

Former HMM-365 Marine paints Leatherneck cover

Col. Keith Oliver, Ret.
contributor

QUANTICO, Va. - A former New River-based Marine was the cover artist for Leatherneck magazine last month.

Staff Sgt. Mike Fay, who served with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-365 from 1990 to 1993, is currently posted as a combat illustrator at the Marine Corps' Division of History and Museums at the historic Washington Navy Yard. Fay's boss, retired Col. John Ripley (who once commanded the 2d Marine Regiment at Camp Lejeune), sent him to Iraq last year to document the war the old-fashioned way: with a paintbrush.

One of Fay's works, depicting the Marines' civil affairs efforts in post-Saddam Iraq, landed on the cover of the March Leatherneck, along with a generous spread of other paintings and drawings inside.

The self-described "king of broken time," Fay was out of uniform from 1978 - 1983 and again from 1993 - 2000. He earned a bachelor's degree in art education from Pennsylvania State University, and during 13 years of active duty, held no less than five military occupational specialties, including avionics and recruiting.

The Allentown, Pa., native is in mobilized reservist status for his Washington assignment.

Leatherneck, since 1917 the "Magazine of the Marines," is published by the Marine Corps Association based out of Quantico, Va.. The MCA was founded by John A. Lejeune and others "to disseminate knowledge of the military art and science."



courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Mike Fay, graphic illustrator at the Marine Corps' Division of History and Museums, paints a picture in his tent in Iraq. Fay served with HMM-365 from 1990 to 1993.

New River Aviation Memorial: Final stages to start soon

Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

In 1996, there was an fatal mid-air collision between a CH-46E Sea Knight and an AH-1W Super Cobra. Not long after, the widows of the Cobra pilots decided to find a way to remember and honor all of the servicemembers who have died in aircraft incidents.

The idea of the New River Aviation Memorial was born.

With the help of a few friends and like-minded supporters, the next year the New River Aviation Memorial Foundation was created. Their goal: to create a vivid and living reminder of the sacrifice and devotion of the many aviators and air crewmen from the Station in years past and ahead.

"We don't want it to be a place of sorrow or sadness, but more of a place for Marines to be proud of," said Andra D. Reventlow, foundation treasurer.

According to Reventlow, the foundation began

receiving its first donations in January 1997. A site for the memorial was chosen and granted by Station officials for the foundation to use, and it will be located between the two static helicopter displays near the main gate.

The design of the memorial was determined through a contest held that same year.

Foundation members decided that a contest would be the best way to select a design for the memorial. Three submissions were chosen for the final design.

A single design was produced from the combination of the three designs.

The primary focus for the final design is two bronze statues: one of an aviator in a flight suit and another of an infantry Marine in camouflage utilities; one for the pilots and crewmembers, and the other for the ground personnel.

The two statues will sit upon a five-foot granite pedestal, with the combined elements resting upon a brick roundel.

Later plans include granite benches and shrub-

beries, which transform the memorial and its surrounding area into a "Memorial Park."

Today, the statue is finished, but is currently in storage until the entire memorial is complete. The next step is building the roundel and pedestals.

"We have to get a contractor out to the site to tell us exactly how much it's going to cost to build the memorial before we can break ground," said Reventlow, an Adair, Okla. native.

"A lot of people wonder why it's taking so long to accomplish, but they have to realize that this has been something that has been pushed by widows and supporters who continue to struggle with their loss as well as survival," added Reventlow. "We're probably only \$20,000 to \$30,000 short of our goal."

There is still a lot of support for the project, and according to Reventlow, most of the donations for the memorial have come from the friends and families of those whom the project is dedicated to: All servicemembers from New River who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

'Condors' take H&HS to battle skills PME

Pfc. Michael Angelo
correspondent

Approximately 75 Marines and Sailors from the Station Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron flew to Landing Zone Bluebird on April 6 to conduct their monthly battle skills professional military education.

The Marines flew in CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters with the "Condors" of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-464 to the landing zone where their PME on Marine aviation was conducted.

"It's important for every Marine to know about helicopter safety and how to ride in a helicopter because the helicopters are used so much in garrison and war. Nobody knows when they're going to have only a one-hour notice to get in one and go," said Staff Sgt. Matthew T. Harris, a CH-53E crew chief with the "Condors" and a Columbus, Ohio, native.

Lt. Col. Timothy W. Fitzgerald, H&HS commanding officer, briefed the Marines upon their arrival about who the instructors were and what the plan of the day was.

Instructors included Maj. Mike A. Wood, a Jacksonville, N.C., native and AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter pilot; Maj. Andrew V. Stich from Louisville, Ky., and H&HS safety officer; Maj. Michael R. Connolly of Crystalake, Ill., and H&HS executive officer, as well as the CO.

Different topics were discussed on various types of Marine aircraft, from the C-130 to the Osprey, and

they also spoke about the different platforms of Marine aviation. In an effort to familiarize Marines with a mission briefing for pilots in combat situations, the Marines participated in a staged mission briefing.

"The key point was for the Marines and Sailors to get a chance to fly in a helicopter. The second point was to teach the Marines and Sailors about the functions of Marine aviation and about the various platforms we have in the inventory. H&HS is one of the many different types of squadrons that make up Marine aviation. It is important that the Marines and Sailors are familiar with their element of the Marine Air Ground Task Force and the aviation combat element," said Fitzgerald.

Every month H&HS conducts PMEs covering different aspects of battle skills. Last month, the Marines went to Fort Fisher to observe an historical battle site and learn about the amphibious attack which took place there during the Civil War, added Fitzgerald, who is originally

from El Paso, Texas.

"It's important for Marines to learn about our air capabilities," said Dumas, Texas, native Lance Cpl. Michael S. Roberts, who is also a radar electrician with H&HS Ground Electronics Maintenance Division. "It is a big factor in our success on the battlefield."



Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer

Marines of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron attend a field PME at Landing Zone Bluebird. Marines were airlifted to and from LZ Bluebird aboard CH-53E Super Stallions from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron- 464 on April 6.

Enviromental clean-up continues



Cpl. Hardin W. Jarrett

Signs posted at a contaminated area aboard Camp Geiger warns everyone to stay clear of the area as a precaution.

Kirk Kropinack
contribution

Anyone who has been down the dirt road between the Child Development Center and the Staff Housing area here may have noticed a few signs and fences raised where the road crosses Edwards Creek. The purpose of those obstructions is to notify the community of the site where a chemical contamination exists in the soil, groundwater and surface water. The area is known as Installation Restoration Site 89.

The site covers a large area, beginning near the intersection of "G" and Eighth Sts. aboard Camp Geiger, covering the former Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office lot, and to areas south and east of DRMO, crossing over the dirt road into the woods north of the housing area.

Historical records show that a base motor pool operated in the area from the 1940's to 1988. DRMO then operated out of the site from 1990 to 2000.

During the removal of an underground storage tank in 1993, chlorinated solvents and petroleum products were detected in the soil and groundwater.

Additional sampling of the area found other contaminants in the surface water and sediments of Edwards Creek. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune environmental officials notified nearby residents to avoid the creek and the wooded area surrounding it. They then fenced off the area and posted "No Trespassing" signs. In 2001, 32,000 tons of contaminated soil was removed and treated, and an aeration system was installed in Edwards Creek to assist in removing contaminants.

Currently, additional cleanup efforts are being made at Site 89.

The work is now focused in the upper portion of the groundwater table where contamination exists in both the soils and groundwater. None of the drinking water wells have been impacted by activities at Site 89.

Protecting the safety and health of

the cleanup personnel, base personnel and nearby residents is a critical goal of this project. Personnel who work at the site must receive intensive specialized training and are outfitted with appropriate personal protective equipment. These are the only people authorized to enter the site.

Unauthorized persons are warned from entering the site, however, recently there has been evidence of people climbing over the fences and walking through the site or playing in the creek. It is important to understand that the area is still in the process of being cleaned up; therefore, it is not yet safe to enter. Only specially trained and authorized personnel are allowed to do so. It is imperative that residents and hunters stay out of this area.

Residents of the housing areas should receive a newsletter discussing this issue in more detail. For more information, please contact Rick Raines, Camp Lejeune Environmental Office, at 451-9461.

Courts-Martial

A Marine from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, Marine Aircraft Group-29, was found guilty at a special court-martial March 22 for a violation of Article 86, absence without leave, specifications of Article 111, drunken operation of a vehicle and a violation of Article 134, drunken incapacitation for duty.

Punishment: 60 days confinement, forfeiture of \$795 pay per month for 2 months and reduction to E-1.

A Marine from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, Marine Aircraft Group-29, was found guilty at a special court-martial March 24 of violation of Article 86, absence without leave, Article 92, disobeying an order, and an additional violation of Article 86, unauthorized absence.

Punishment: 40 days confinement, forfeiture of \$400 pay per month for two months, and reduction to E-1.

ICE brings 'Customer Satisfaction'

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

Ever been frustrated with waiting in line at a fast-food joint because the service was too slow or maybe you were impressed by how attentive your server was and just wanted to make a good comment about it?

When it comes to voicing even the most trivial remarks concerning complaints or compliments pertaining to MCAS New River, individuals can access a new Interactive Customer Evaluation system via the Web by visiting <http://ice.disa.mil/> and following the links, explained Dale J. Jacoby, management analysis assistant, New River ICE site.

The site was designed to be an online comment card, which enables the customer to rate the service received or make a suggestion for improvement. Its purpose is to improve customer

service for servicemembers, their families and Department of Defense civilian employees, as well as individuals who visit Station, added Michael J. Pisani, management analysis officer.

"We want everyone to know that it's there, and they can get to it," said Pisani, who hails from Syracuse, N.Y. "If anyone doesn't have access to a computer, they can come to [AS-211], third deck, room 317 and use any of our computers."

According to Jacoby, a native of Lincoln, Neb., ICE has not yet been implemented or advertised aboard Station, however, it can be accessed while in its test phase. The idea is to get individuals to visit the site and make hundreds of comments, so the staff can put those suggestions into effect.

For more details on the Interactive Customer Evaluation system, call Michael J. Pisani at 449-5451 or Dale J. Jacoby at 449-5452.

SMP intoxicates Marines with knowledge



Cpl. Andrew W. Miller

Staff Sgt. Carla M. Plowden, chief cook with the Station dining facility, finds out that riding a tricycle is harder than it looks when wearing the beer goggles.

Cpl. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

The Station Single Marine Program supported "Alcohol Awareness Week" April 5 - 8 to help Marines better understand the effects of drinking.

"This is the first Alcohol Awareness Week we have done so far, and I would love to see it set up annually," said Beth Birchfield, Station SMP coordinator. "I have been really pleased with the turn-out of interested Marines."

The events of the week included guest speakers, the infamous "beer goggles" and a personal evaluation screening.

"I didn't want this to turn into a generic safety stand-down," said Birchfield, a native of Montgomery, Ala. "We spoke with people from other bases to help get fun ideas to make this more interesting."

On April 6, Marines were treated

to an entertaining lecture from Rick Barnes, titled "Drink Think: A Personal Approach to Drinking."

Barnes, an independent speaker with Barnes and Associates, tours the country visiting various college campuses and military installations, sharing his wisdom and experiences about alcohol.

"I'm not going to tell anyone not to drink alcohol because quite frankly, I enjoy the stuff myself," said Barnes of Fort Worth, Texas. "I just try to get people to think when they do and be responsible."

On April 7, the SMP set up a "beer goggle maze" at the Station dining facility.

The participants, (while wearing the special goggles) rode tricycles through cones, took a field sobriety test and maneuvered a soccer ball through cones. The goggles help simulate the effects of alcohol at certain levels.

"The goggles are an excellent tool

to show people what is happening when they drink," said Birchfield. "Being intoxicated really does affect us and makes these relatively simple activities seem almost impossible."

Brad West, Family Services Center drug-demand reduction specialist, conducted personal screening tests at the FSC on April 8.

These screenings were purely for the individual's information to get an idea if he or she might have a drinking problem or need a "personal wake-up call."

The week's events were intended to give a better understanding of the effects of alcohol and ultimately help save lives.

"This was something out of the ordinary, but fun," said Staff Sgt. Carla M. Plowden, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron messhall chief cook and native of Noblesville, Ind., immediately after completing the beer maze. "I can see now how intoxication affects our actions."

Local Marine is key asset to operations in Haiti

Staff Sgt. Timothy S. Edwards
correspondent

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- The clang, clang, clang of metal against metal echoes up walls of the narrow one-lane dirt road as stern-faced men “stack” against the wall waiting for an answer to their hammering knock on the steel gate.

Shuffling and muffled voices come from behind the gate as the grating screech of a latch being drawn breaks the waiting silence.

A lady steps out, her surprise, uncertainty and fear at seeing the armed warriors outside her residence instantly apparent as she began to back away, ringing her hands and shying as if expecting to be hit.

The look of uncertainty soon changed to one of surprise when one of the men stepped away from the group, reached out his hand and introduced himself in Creole.

Taking her hand in one hand and gently resting his other on her shoulder, Cpl. Kervens Michel quickly explained that they’re U.S. Marines with the Multinational Interim Force, and that they are here looking for information about a group of men who had fired on a vehicle patrol a few nights earlier.

Patting his hand, she quickly began explaining what she knew and explaining that she wasn’t sure what was going on in the community. All she really knew was that there had been a lot of gunfire about a quarter mile further in the community.

Reassuring her that the Marines

were there to help build stability and security in the area, he then wished her a great afternoon, shook her hand again and then explained what she had said to the unit’s commander.

Soon the Marines were stepping off to the next house.

Michel is one of approximately 20 Haitian-American Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen here supporting Combined Joint Task Force – Haiti’s mission to contribute to stability and security in Haiti.

According to Marine Col. Mario LaPaix, special advisor to CJTF-Haiti’s commander and a Haitian-American himself, the role of these personnel is essential due to the language barrier.

“The native Haitian Marines who speak Creole have been absolutely critical to the success of this mission from day one,” agreed Marine Col. David H. Berger, commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Camp Lejeune, N.C. one of the first units on the ground after the resignation of the president. “In every tactical mission, every meeting with key leaders, they have played a key role ensuring our goals were clearly stated.

According to Weapons Company commander, Marine Capt. William A. Sablan, each company was lucky enough to have a Haitian-American servicemember filling a role in their commands before they deployed.

This allowed them to interact with the local community immediately upon their arrival.

Their heritage is a key factor in

their ability to help blend the Marines’ operations into the local communities.

“These Marines know the culture, and they know the area we’re operating in,” Berger explained. “These Marines have made it possible for us to communicate directly with the Haitian people on the street, and they have helped diffuse potentially violent situations time and again.

“On multiple occasions, we have settled potentially violent situations merely because our Haitian Marines were up front, doing the talking, calming down the crowd,” Berger added.

The fact that most of these service members volunteered to come down or would have volunteered if they had

not already been assigned says a lot about their character.

“To a man, each of them has shown the most selfless and professional approach to duty,” Berger explained about the Haitian-Americans under his command. “Each one has performed in an exceptional manner without any personal reservation.

“I think they understand that they are in a unique position to help make their native country safer,” he continued, “and improve the lives of their countrymen.”

“They have a strong kinship to Haiti,” agreed LaPaix. “They would like to make it better.”



Staff Sgt. Timothy S. Edwards

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Cpl. Kervens Michel, a Port DePaix, Haiti, native and current Miami resident, discusses key points of an upcoming cordon and knock operation, March 28, with members of the Haitian National Police. The operation was conducted to investigate a live-fire incident in the area a few nights prior.

Leader takes pride in his Marine

Master Sgt. James W. Gray
contributor

In reading the article titled, "Local Marine is key asset to operation in Haiti," I was ecstatic to read about the great work one of our administrators, Cpl. Kervens Michel, is doing in Haiti.

At the same time, my mind was troubled because I know the caliber of this Marine. Yet soon, he will be forced out of the Marine Corps due to keen competition in the administrator field.

This Marine has struggled to find ways to be able to stay in our beloved Corps, but has been unsuccessful. I wonder at times if we are really keeping only the best of the best or are we allowing some of the great

future leaders to slip out of our fingers?

This same Marine, who is playing a vital role in Haiti, was asked to go there after being rejected for reenlistment. He was offered a 30-day extension to deploy to Haiti to support the Marine Corps. His adjusted end-of-active-service is April 19.

Unlike many others who think of themselves, Michel agreed to deploy, knowing that there was a strong possibility he would have to leave the Marine Corps within a matter of days or weeks, yet hoping the Marine Corps would find room for him at a later time.

This is not the only time Michel has stepped up to the to fill needed forward deployment billets. While assigned to the Station, Michel served on two separate back-to-back Marine Expeditionary Unit deployments

providing outstanding administrative support.

It would seem to me that we should be able to find something for this devil dog, even if he could not remain as an administrative clerk.

Here is a small bit of history about Michel's family. Michel is the nephew of Haitian Emperor Aios Michel, who reigned from 1989 - 1995, and grandson of Apau Michel, (Apau appointed Aios as Emperor).

Prior to governmental changes in 1995, the Michels' were sovereign over all of the affairs of the people who lived within their section's boundaries.

Editor’s note: Master Sgt. Gray is the Staff Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge of the Installation Personal Administrative Center.

Marine Corps book review: 'Star Wars: Darth Maul'

Lance Cpl. John D. Cranford
contributor

I'm not really much of a fan of Star Wars novels; I generally pass on them. However, when I saw a book devoted to the "Dark Side of the Force" by Michael Reaves, I had to give it a try.

The plot is clear-cut and reads like a fast-paced action movie. Reaves begins the plot before Episode 1: The Phantom Menace.

Darth Maul was assigned a simple task by his master Darth Sidious, the future leader of the Empire. His orders were to find and kill a Nemoidian Trade Federation official who has run away.

The official has thoughts of selling what he knows about the coming blockade around the planet, Naboo, to anyone with enough "Republic" credits.

While this was happening, Darsha Assant, a Jedi Padawan (a recruit), was on her final Jedi trial which is the ultimate test of her knowledge of the "Force."

Unfortunately, she failed miserably. Upon returning to the site of her failure with her Jedi mentor, she was forced to become a bodyguard to Lorn Pavan, a smalltime information broker, and his thieving, sarcastic droid I-Five.

Lorn and I-Five were in the process of buying the holocron crystal containing the information

about the coming blockade on Naboo when a lightsaber yielding Darth Maul interrupted the deal.

Though the two thieves were rescued from the Sith assassin, it was at the cost of Darsha's mentor's life. Suddenly, the three find themselves being relentlessly pursued by Darth Maul through the great catacombs beneath the Coruscant surface.

Reaves vividly describes the characters and the experiences they encounter as the good guys try to save the world, and the bad guys try to go unnoticed.

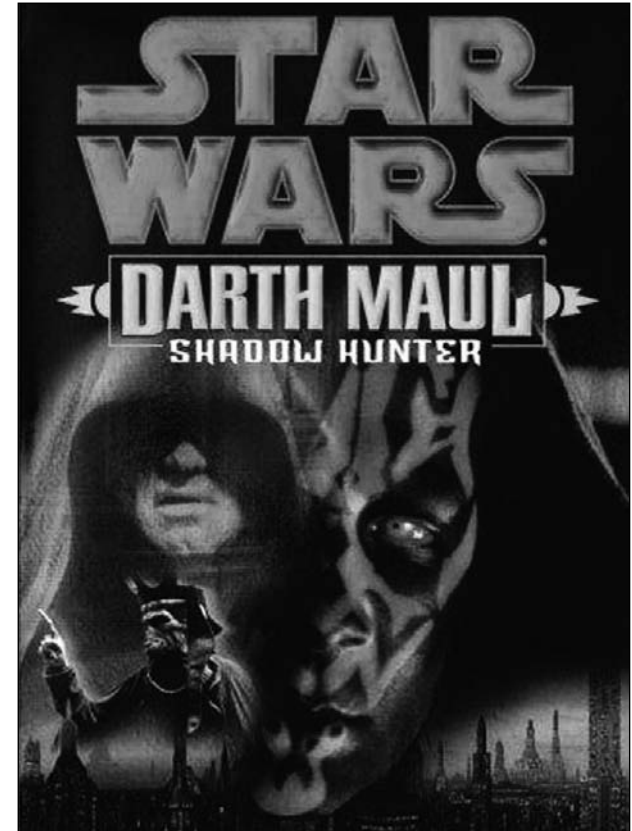
Ultimately, this book is about good versus evil and how evil can be found in the most surprising places; we must continue to be on our guard against the "Dark Side," or we will fail ourselves.

The author does an exceptional job conveying real-life scenarios through fictional experiences in his book.

Presently, our nation is in a battle against terrorism, which is an unforeseen force that damages the very foundation our nation was built upon.

Like the Jedi in the story, we as our nation's defenders have to do our part to ensure the Sith, terrorist organizations, are defeated and our great "Republic" is kept safe.

While I did enjoy this book, I wouldn't recommend it to anyone who doesn't like Star Wars. There's far too much Star Wars jargon for the unfamiliar audience.



Star Wars: Darth Maul is a 305 page prequel to Episode 1 and written by Michael Reaves.

Roto View

What do you think of the media coverage on the war in Iraq?



"There is just way too much coverage. They should let us do our job and not be run by the media."

1st Lt. Ryan A. Lynch,
replacement air crew,
Marine Helicopter Training Squadron-
302
Wilmington, N.C.

"It depends on what channel you watch or what paper you read. On average, the pressure seems to be on leadership mistakes."

Master Gunnery Sgt. John M. Jambon,
avionics chief,
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26
Light House Point, Fla.



"They do a pretty good job. Some things are overdone. I'd like to see more emphasis on how good a job the troops over there are doing."

Silvia M. Willard,
cashier,
New River Commissary
Patterson, N.J.

"I think it's inaccurate. The coverage needs to be more widespread. (Marines) aren't just in Iraq."

Cpl. Richard A. Islas,
computer technician,
Marine Aircraft Group-26
Covina, Calif.



"I think they do a pretty good job on covering the mission at hand, location and being on the offensive. They are very thorough in their coverage."

Sgt. Rolando A. Vargas,
operations chief,
Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-
162
Del Rio, Texas



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Glenn Hargett, Jacksonville director of community affairs, explains to the ‘Untouchables’ the plans for the Wilson Bay plant.



Pfc. Michael Angelo

Over 100 Marines from the Station’s Marine Wing Support Squadron-272, plant various trees and bushes at Sturgeon City’s Wilson Bay Park on April 2.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

After a more than two-mile squadron run around downtown Jacksonville, MWSS-272 Marines do push-ups as part of their cool down.

'Untouchables' touch community

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

The support squadron from New River reinforced the meaning of community service when they participated in an environmental restoration project at Sturgeon City on April 2 and assisted the local United Service Organization with remodeling their kitchen, brining in new equipment.

After a more than two-mile squadron motivational run around downtown Jacksonville, the "Untouchables" of Marine Wing Support Squadron-272, in collaboration with the USO and the Sturgeon City Environmental Restoration and Economic Development commission, helped breathe life into a once old-fashioned galley, an old water treatment plant and its surrounding area.

Jacksonville local Glenn Hargett said, "We usually get a lot of people in college who volunteer to help in the [Wilson Bay] restoration project, but it's awesome that we have Marines from the Air Station coming out to volunteer."

The area surrounding the Wilson Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant overlooks the bay and the New River. According to Web site <http://sturgeoncitiy.org>, sturgeon once were plentiful in the New River, but wastewater from the now closed treatment facility caused conditions to affect the

bottom of the river and harm marine life. It made the area uninhabitable and forced the sturgeons to abandon the bay.

"We're working to clean up the bay and restore the land," said Jeanne D. Stanley, Sturgeon City environmental educator.

Plans for the Wilson Bay Park have been in motion since 1998 when the City of Jacksonville made a moral decision to construct wetlands at the locale, create a park and transform the old structures into exhibits, basically, giving the land back to the public, explained Hargett, director of community affairs.

According to Stanley, a Swansboro, N.C., native, they have already renovated the old biotower into an administration building, which displays photographs and information about the treatment facility and changes or additions constructed since the project began. A man-made salt-water marsh was created to function as a transition zone from terrestrial to oceanic life. Salt marshes also perform an important function in the stabilization and protection of shorelines, especially during storm tides.

Future plans for completion of the park includes creating a butterfly garden, showcasing artifacts, building an amphitheater and transforming the water tanks into exhibits, added Stanley.



Pfc. Michael Angelo

The “Untouchables” lend the local United Service Organization a helping hand with their move to a new location April 2.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Before the “Untouchables” get a real workout, volunteering at the USO and Sturgeon City, they warm up by double-timing around downtown Jacksonville.

Approximately 150 Marines from the squadron planted more than 400 various trees and bushes around the perimeter and along the boardwalks.

"[MWSS-] 272 not only works for the Marine Corps, but it works for the community too," said Spring Hill, Fla., native Lance Cpl. Richard E. Lisi, wireman switchboard operator. "This is my first time participating in this event, and it's pretty cool to be doing a lot for the community."

The other portion of their community service was to help the USO pack up their kitchen and move in different equipment. Roughly 20 Marines loaded canned goods and supplies into a moving truck than carried new shelves and various other items in, explained Judy Pitchford, also from Jacksonville and executive director of the USO.

"We ask an awful lot of our families, and when we deploy, the [USO] is here to support them in our absence," said Lt. Col. Joseph K. Haviland, "Untouchables" commanding officer.

The Philadelphian also added, the squadron has been participating in community outreach programs and spending their time volunteering at different organizations.

"Marines don't know how much Jacksonville supports the military," said Haviland. "We need to open our eyes to the community and the USO."



Pfc. Michael Angelo

Lance Cpl. Richard E. Lisi, a wireman switchboard operator with MWSS-272, and native of Spring Hill, Fla., digs a hole before planting a Cyrilla Racemosa shrub. Approximately 440 different types of vegetation were planted as part of the Wilson Bay restoration project.

'Fighting Griffins' move into Afghanistan with 22d MEU

22d MEU Public Affairs contribution

More than 2,200 Marines and Sailors of the Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) have completed their movement into Afghanistan to assist the country in its quest for long-term stability.

Commanded by Col. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., the 22d MEU left Camp Lejeune in mid-February aboard the

amphibious assault ships USS Wasp, USS Whidbey Island and USS Shreveport as part of Expeditionary Strike Group 2. Prior to its deployment to Afghanistan, the unit completed an amphibious landing exercise in Albania and conducted simultaneous Mediterranean port visits in Malta, Albania and Croatia.

Advance elements of the MEU first arrived in Kandahar in mid to late March to lay the groundwork for the rest of the force's arrival. After a brief

period of reconsolidation, acclimatization and refresher training, the forces of the 22d MEU will begin conducting combat and civil military operations.

Sgt. Mike Cheplick is a section leader in the light armored reconnaissance platoon of Battalion Landing Team, 1st Bn., 6th Marines, the MEU's ground combat element, and says his Marines are ready for their mission.

"We're ready to hit the ground running," said Cheplick, who saw

action alongside most of his platoon-mates in Iraq last year during Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Morale is really high, and there's no real fear among the Marines, but just the usual apprehension about the uncertainty of what lies ahead."

The MEU's specific missions in Afghanistan will include facilitating election efforts and seeking out and destroying Al Qaeda, Taliban, and anti-coalition militia operating in the unit's area of operations.

MCAS New River Sounds of Freedom Air Show

Celebrating the Heritage of Aviation



- **The 100th Year of Powered Flight ...**
- **The 60th Anniversary of MCAS New River ...**
- **The 40th Year of Service to the Fleet by the CH-46 ...**

Join us as we celebrate these milestones and the rich Heritage of Aviation at the 2004 New River Sounds of Freedom Airshow, Sept. 18 - 19.

Aerobatics, jet cars, special operations demonstrations, historic warbirds, flight simulators ... and more. Don't miss it.

Those interested in opportunities for corporate sponsorship should contact Jeanie Klezaras at 449-6781.

John Gunn's sports highlights

Marine vet McWaters coaches four teams at Samford

Coach Glenn McWaters is in his seventh year as coach of the Samford University men's and women's track and field teams. He also coaches the Bulldogs' cross-country teams in the fall.

McWaters has enjoyed a successful run since taking the helm in 1996, one that includes four conference championships, four conference Coach-of-the-Year awards and establishment of more than 150 school records.

Recently, the Samford track and field team competed at the Alabama Relays at Tuscaloosa and turned in some impressive performances. The Bulldogs broke four school records and Trent Schmidt qualified for the NCAA Regionals in the pole vault.

Jennifer Craig broke the school record in the 100m, finishing ninth with a time of 11.99, and broke the school record in the 200m, finishing 6th in a time of 24.26. Jessica Brewer finished second in the 3000m steeplechase in a school-record 11:24.67.

On the men's side, Schmidt broke the school record in the pole vault with a height of 16-04.75. Over the weekend, the Bulldogs competed in the Troy State Invitational and Saturday participated in the Spec Towns Invitational at Athens, Ga.

In November, the Samford men's and women's cross country teams finished up their seasons at the NCAA Regionals in Auburn. The women finished 11th and the men 15th. Lauren Blankenship led the Samford women with a 43rd - place finish and Bryan Baddorf paced the men with a 31st - place finish.

The women's team finished ahead of several SEC schools, including Alabama and Ole Miss, and local teams UAB and Birmingham-Southern.

McWaters impact was immediate on the Bulldogs' program, leading the women's team to the TAAC cross-country championship in his first year.

During the 1999-2000 academic year, Samford's men swept the TAAC championships, winning titles in cross-country and track & field. Last season, the men's cross-country team repeated as TAAC champion.

McWaters ran competitively at Auburn, where he held several school records and was All-Southeastern Conference in cross country and track three years.

Upon graduation, he ran for the Marine Corps, qualifying for the 1968 Olympic Trials in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Gunn is a member of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Assn., 2nd Marine Division Assn., Marine Corps Intelligence Assn., Marine Corps Aviation Assn., Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and Naval Aviation Museum Foundation.

New River basketball standings

Division A	W	L
MALS-26 Sup	11	1
MAG-26 HQ	10	2
HMM-365	8	4
H&HS	7	5
MALS-29	3	9
VMX-22	3	9
HMH-461	0	12

Division B	W	L
MWSS-272	10	0
MALS-29 Avi	8	2
MALS-26 HQ	6	4
NAMTRA	3	7
VMT-302	2	8
HMM-264	1	9



*These were the standings April 16.

New River softball slides into action



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Softball season began Monday with three games kicking off at 6 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 8:30p.m. The final game of the season is June 16 at 8:30 p.m. with the Provost Marshal's Office and Marine Aircraft Group-29 headquarters facing each other.

Marine Corps Weapons:

AT4 Anti-tank missile

The M136 AT4 anti-tank missile is a lightweight, self-contained, anti armor weapon consisting of a free-flight, fin-stabilized, rocket-type cartridge packed in an expendable, one-piece, fiberglass-wrapped tube.

The missile is man-portable and is fired from the right shoulder only. The launcher is watertight for ease of transportation and storage.

Though the M136 AT4 can be employed in limited visibility, the firer must be able to see and identify the target and estimate the range to it. Subsequent to the initial fielding of the weapon, a reusable night sight bracket was developed and fielded. It permits utilization of standard night vision equipment. The round of ammunition is self-contained in a disposable launch tube.

General Characteristics

Builder: FFV Ordnance, Sweden and Alliant Techsystems

Length: 40 inches

Weight: 14.75 pounds

Bore diameter: 84mm

Maximum effective range: 300 meters

Muzzle velocity: 285 meters per second

Time of Flight: 1 second

Ammunition: Rocket with shaped charge warhead

Unit replacement cost: \$1,480.64

Editor's note: Information for this section is from the Marine Corps Fact File.



Elementary schoolers grace NAMTRAMAR



Pfc. Michael Angelo

Nicholas A. Retterer, 7, pretends to be a pilot as part of the Grace Baptist School tour of Naval Air Maintenance Training Marine Unit aboard New River April 16. Not only did Retterer gain experience as pilot, but he learned just a small portion of what the military does. The elementary schoolers had the opportunity to be pretend-pilots in a training model CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter.

New River Chapel hours

Sunday Worship

9 a.m. Mass
11 a.m. Protestant

Daily Mass

11:45 a.m. Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday
and Friday

For more information, contact Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron D. Painter at 449-6801.

Family Service Center

AA Meetings

Each Monday
11:50 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

FSC now has Alcoholics Anonymous meetings every Monday. These meetings are open to alcoholics and non-alcoholics.

Retired Affairs

Each Wednesday and Friday
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The retired affairs representative can provide retired service members and their spouses with information regarding benefits, entitlements, privileges and legal assistance.

No appointments are necessary.

Keystone Meetings for Teens

Each 1st and 3rd Friday
6 - 7 p.m.

The Keystone meetings are a Boys and Girls Club Program that

offers an opportunity to gain leadership skills, participate in and earn community service hours. Social activities are also available.

Everyone is invited to come voice suggestions and plan events.

On the 3rd Friday of each month a teen-prevention topic is presented.

Play Morning

Youth Community Center

Play morning is a time for mom and dad to have fun with their children ages six and under.

For more information, please call New Parent Support Program at 451-5286.

Power Hour

Every Afternoon

This is an education program implemented by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to help students

excel in school.

Power Hour means that everyday after school, members will have a special place that is quiet and private to do their homework.

Someone will be on hand to help members who have questions or need help understanding their homework.

Tutoring will also be available and can be scheduled on a weekly or daily basis.

Pre-Separation Brief

April 21

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This mandated brief covers all required information for the service-member and spouse separating from the military way of life.

Topics discussed include: pay entitlements, Veteran Affairs benefits, financial management, educational opportunities, transportation of house-

hold goods, job service and more.

Pre-registration is mandatory through the individual's unit transition counselor.

Military Spouse-Local Employment Seminar

April 27

9 - 10:30 a.m.

Pre-registration is required. The class is available for spouses and family members seeking part-time or full-time employment in the local community.

Topics discussed will include: networking, resume or application assistance, interview tips and more.

For more information on our programs or to pre-register for one of the classes, please call us at 449-6110/6185 or visit our Web site at www.lejeune.usmc.mil.

LCTV-10 Schedule

LCTV10

April 23-29

Show Title	Show Time	Show Title	Show Time
Jim Zumbo: Dove Hunt	7:30 a.m.	Army Newswatch	5:30 p.m.
The Morning Report	8 a.m.	Fierce Pride	6 p.m.
Kansas University	8:30 a.m.	The Morning Report	7:30 p.m.
Your Corps	9 a.m.	Air Force News	8 p.m.
Fierce Pride	9:30 a.m.	The Evening Parade	8:30 p.m.
Cooking With Tony: Fajitas	11 a.m.	Cooking With Tony: Fajitas	10:30 p.m.
Air Force News	11:30 a.m.	Navy/Marine Corps News	11 p.m.
The Morning Report	12 p.m.	The Morning Report	11:30 p.m.
Jim Zumbo: Dove Hunt	12:30 p.m.	Army Newswatch	12 a.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News	1 p.m.	Air Force News	12:30 a.m.
Kansas University	1:30 p.m.	The Evening Parade	1 a.m.
Cooking With Tony: Fajitas	2:30 p.m.	Kansas University	3 a.m.
Your Corps	3 p.m.	Navy/Marine Corps News	3:30 a.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News	3:30 p.m.	Missing in Action	4 a.m.
The Morning Report	4 p.m.	The Morning Report	5 a.m.
Kansas University	4:30 p.m.	The Evening Parade	5:30 a.m.

A look at what's on LCTV-10

Jim Zumbo: Dove Hunt

Through an agreement with the Outdoor Channel, LCTV-10 has been given permission to play a wide variety of outdoor programming. This week, outdoor enthusiast Jim Zumbo explores dove hunting in Darlington, S.C.

Dove hunting is a popular sport in the United States, particularly in the South where doves are very abundant.

With so many doves in the U.S., it would seem that hunting them would be simple. This is not necessarily the case, as Zumbo shows the audience.

Doves are not only quick, they fly in irregular patterns, making several sharp turns. As Zumbo finds out, it can take a box of shotgun shells to get even one bird.

Cooking with Tony: Fajitas

Lt. Col. Tony Fazio brings another mouthwatering episode of "Cooking with Tony." This week's featured dish is fajitas, a dish that can be prepared even by 12-year-olds, said Fazio.

The ingredients are simple: cheeses, seasonings, tomatoes, salsa, green peppers, onions and tortillas.

Fazio also uses strips of beef in the fajitas, but chicken can be used as well. This meal can be ready to eat in as little as 15 minutes.

According to Fazio, more and more children are interested in cooking and parents and children ages 12 - 15 can work together to prepare these fajitas.

Fazio also prepares easy-to-make hors d'oeuvres.

Fierce Pride

From producer Ron Tucker of Good-To-Go Video comes an excellent program on Marines who reside at Marine Barracks, 8th & I, Washington, D.C.

More than 1,100 Marines are stationed at 8th & I including members of the United States Marine Band, the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and two companies of infantry Marines who provide members for the famous Silent Drill Platoon.

During the summer months, these Marines entertain thousands of visitors to the Capitol City with their precision drill performances.

"Fierce Pride" takes viewers through the process Marines must endure to become members of the Silent Drill Platoon. The program also gives a concise look at what Marines go through at boot camp.

News and Information

With a healthy line-up of news and information, LCTV-10 is an excellent source for military news. Every week, viewers can see LCTV-10's "The Morning Report," "Navy/Marine Corps News," "Army Newswatch," "Your Corps" and "Air Force News."

This week, Army Newswatch takes an interesting look at the Army's annual Culinary Arts Competition, as well as the new Stryker Brigades.

New Additions

LCTV-10 is looking forward to a new addition to The Morning Report, Marine Corps meteorologists from Marine Corps Air Station New River.

The new Marines will be able to provide viewers with a more accurate look at weather conditions because they are trained experts in the field.

Volunteer at LCTV-10

To volunteer at LCTV-10, please contact 2nd Lt. Clark Carpenter at 451-5371. We are currently looking for a sports anchor.

John H. Glenn, an American hero

John H. Glenn Jr., a true American hero, grew up in New Concord, Ohio, a small religious town. The son of a World War I veteran, his childhood recalls a Norman Rockwell painting: Decoration Day parades, little kids playing in fields and woods, hot fudge sundaes at the local dairy, and marrying the girl next door.

He enrolled in the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in 1942 and served with the Marine Corps' Marine Fighting Squadron-155 during World War II, flying 59 combat missions in F4U Corsairs over the Marshalls, earning two Distinguished Flying Crosses. Glenn and the Marine fliers of VMO-155 arrived at Majuro, Marshalls, in July 1944, after the heavy fighting in that area had subsided.

VMO-155's job was to keep the Japanese forces suppressed, to prevent them from staging any counter-attacks by air or water. Glenn's first combat mission took place a few days after he landed; it was flak suppression. Fly some Corsairs over Maloelap and blast away at any anti-aircraft installations that opened up.

He left the Marshalls in early 1945, and returned stateside. For the last few months of the war, he was at Pax River, Md., test flying planes like the F8F Bearcat and the Ryan Fireball

FR-1. Promoted to captain by war's end, he decided to make a career of the Marines.

After the war, he became a member of Marine Fighter Squadron-218's North China patrol and had duty in Guam. Originally, the China assignment was billed as a three-month tour, but it dragged out for two years.

From June 1948 to December 1950, Glenn was an instructor in advanced flight training at Corpus Christi, Texas. He then attended Amphibious Warfare Training at Quantico, Va. While not really of interest to Glenn, the amphibious warfare course was required for all career Marine officers.

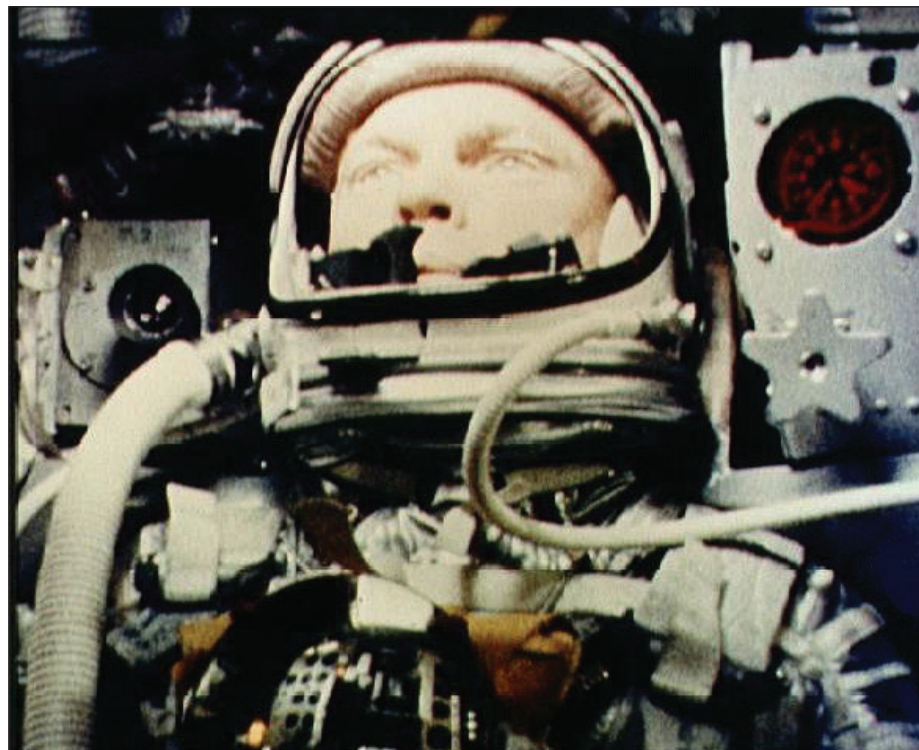
Next, he drew a ground staff assignment, and he wore out the bureaucracy with requests to be transferred to a flying squadron assignment in Korea.

After checking out in the F9F Panthers that the Marines were using in Korea, Glenn flew to Korea in February 1953, assigned to I Marine Air Wing, Marine Fighter Squadron-311, K-3 Airbase at P'ohang.

The city was about 180 miles from the front. Armed with three thousand pounds of bombs and five-inch High Velocity Aircraft Rockets, the heavily built F9F Panthers were well suited for ground attack missions. One day flying over Sinanju, Glenn spotted a North Korean anti-aircraft gun emplacement. He noted its position, and circled back, blasting away at it with the F9F's four 20 mm cannon. However, his Panther was hit in the process, and he could hardly keep the plane level, constantly pulling back on the stick just to keep it level. He made it back to K-3 to find a hole in the Panther's tail that was big enough to put a head and shoulders through.

After flying 63 missions in a Panther from K-3, he applied to fly F-86 Interceptors with the Air Force on an exchange program.

They patrolled the area just south of the Yalu, the so-called "MiG Alley," in long figure eights, always turning towards the north to keep from being surprised. The F-86 Sabres and the MiGs were evenly matched. Both had 6,000-pound thrust jet engines and could go supersonic in a dive. The MiG was smaller, and it could climb higher and faster. The Sabre was faster



www.gre.nasa.gov

On February 20, 1962, Glenn piloted the Mercury-Atlas 6 "Friendship-7" spacecraft on the first manned orbital mission of the United States. He completed a successful three-orbit mission around the earth, reaching a maximum altitude of approximately 162 statute miles and an orbital velocity of 17,500 miles per hour.

in level flight and in a dive, had a greater range, and could turn tighter in a fast dive. The Sabre carried six 50 caliber machine guns, while the MiG relied on a single 37 mm and two 23 mm cannon.

On July 22, he downed his third MiG, his last of the war. There were a few more days of bad weather, then the armistice was declared. He had flown 27 Sabre missions with the USAF 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing and earned another DFC and eight Air Medals in Korea.

After the Korean War, he entered the Navy's prestigious Patuxent River Test Pilot School (universally known in the military flying community as "Pax River"). He rose to the rank of major in the Marine Corps after three years in test flight.

In 1957, Glenn became a minor celebrity when he flew the first supersonic, trans-continental flight, a project that he devised and managed himself. Flying a Vought F8U "Crusader," he developed the plan to fly from Los Angeles to New York at an average speed above Mach 1, which required

three aerial refuelings from flying tankers. He completed the flight in 3 hours and 23 minutes. Later he appeared on a television game show with child star Eddie Hodges.

In 1958, he was selected as one of the original seven Space Shuttle Mercury astronauts. He was the clean-cut, go-getter of the group. While he was not chosen to fly either of the first two flights, as it worked out, his flight, the third in the Mercury program, was the choice mission. It carried him far beyond its three orbits and five hours to global fame: a Broadway ticker-tape parade, a meeting with President Kennedy, and an eventual career in politics as U.S. Senator for Ohio.

Glenn ran for President in 1984 but his campaign never took off. He is the oldest person to go into space and also holds the record for longest time between space flights, as he flew the space shuttle in 1998, 36 years after the flight of the Mercury capsule Friendship-7.



www.gre.nasa.gov

John Glenn was one of the original seven Space Shuttle Mercury astronauts April 10, 1959.

Editor's note: Information for this story was taken from www.acepilots.com.